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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR		DATE-TIME GROUP		CITE		MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER		
STAFF				FBIS 20825				
TO: FBIS/LONDON. Y								
SUBJECT: BBC MANAGEMENT Y								
<p>1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT REPORT AND COMMENTS ON THE BBC SERVICE REGARDING THE 22 OCTOBER MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE (MLD-5044, 30 OCT 85). I AGREE THAT BBC DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE PROGRESSED MUCH OVER THE YEARS, AND AS FBIS DEVELOPS ITS TECHNOLOGY AND REQUIRES FASTER SERVICE WE ARE GOING TO RUN INTO TROUBLE WITH THE TRADITIONAL "MOM AND POP" PHILOSOPHY OF BBC PROCESSING. WHATEVER YOU CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE BBC TO IRON OUT THE WRINKLES IN THEIR SYSTEM IS WORTHWHILE, BUT ANY REAL PROGRESS IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR GIVEN THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS. Y</p> <p>2. YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE INDEED MOVING AHEAD ON THE IDEA OF A WEST (RATHER THAN SOUTH) EUROPEAN BUREAU. THE IDEA WOULD NOT BE TO REPLACE ANYTHING THE BBC IS NOW DOING BUT TO SET SOMETHING UP IN WEST EUROPE THAT WOULD PROVIDE GOOD COVERAGE OF WEST EUROPEAN TELEVISION, FACSIMILE, RADIO, PRESS, ETC. THIS WOULD ALSO GIVE US A SITE FOR BACKING UP WHAT BBC IS DOING IN THE USSR AND EAST</p>								
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<p>EUROPE SHOULD THE UNIONS FINALLY BECOME AS DISRUPTIVE AS WE HAVE ALWAYS SUSPECTED THEY WOULD. WE HAVE DIRECTORATE CONCURRENCE AND ARE CURRENTLY COORDINATING WITH OTHER HEADQUARTERS COMPONENTS IN SEEKING TOP LEVEL APPROVAL FOR A WEST EUROPE BUREAU. 4</p> <p>3. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DISCUSS OUR DETAILED WEST EUROPE BUREAU PLANS WITH BBC, AS IT COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AND OF COURSE LESSEN THEIR EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN COVERAGE. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT CHALLIS HIMSELF HAS INDICATED THAT BBC WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO FBIS IMPROVING WEST EUROPEAN COVERAGE AT OUR OWN EXPENSE. 4</p> <p>4. AS FBIS GROWS AND IMPROVES, IT IS MY FEELING THAT THE MOST WE COULD HOPE FOR IS FOR BBC TO IMPROVE IT PROCESSING OF MOSCOW. IF THEY COULD DO A DECENT JOB ON THAT THE RELATIONSHIP COULD CONTINUE TO BE A USEFUL ONE. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT YOU PERIODICALLY DISCUSS WITH THE BBC HIERARCHY OUR CONCERN AND DESIRE FOR FIRST-RATE SOVIET COVERAGE, STRESSING THAT AS FBIS MATERIAL IS APPRECIATED MORE AND MORE, AT A HIGHER AND HIGHER LEVEL IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE PRESSURE WILL INCREASE FOR FAST AND ACCURATE COVERAGE OF MOSCOW.</p>								
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<p>INDEED, WICH HAS SUGGESTED WE TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT MOSCOW COVERAGE--PMU, BBC, AU, OW, PROD--WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO DO AT SOME POINT. 4</p> <p>5. IT APPEARS HERE THAT BBC IS SOMEWHAT ADRIFT. WITHEROW WAS REASSIGNED IN MID-MAY; THE DELAY IN NAMING A REPLACEMENT IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO LONG-TERM PLANNING AND GOOD DIRECTION OF THE MONITORING SERVICE. THERE IS A VACUUM AT THE TOP, AND FIRST-LINE MANAGERS--ELLIOTT, OFFORD, ETC.--ARE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED. ALL THIS WORKS AGAINST PROGRESSIVE ACTIVITY IN THE MONITORING SERVICE MANAGEMENT. LET'S HOPE THE LEADERSHIP QUESTION IS RESOLVED SOON.</p> <p>25X1 [REDACTED] ALL CONFIDENTIAL. H</p> <p>COORD: C/OPS (IN DRAFT) C/AG (IN DRAFT)</p> <p>4 3 2 1</p> <p>25X1 [REDACTED]</p> <p>DATE: 9 DEC 85 ORIG: UNIT: EXT:</p> <p>COORDINATING OFFICERS AUTHENTICATING OFFICER</p>								
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